

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 12615 181514Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 ACDA-12 OMB-01 MMO-01 /123 W
-----030137 191105Z /21

R 181241Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3488
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 12615

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, IN, XO
SUBJECT: A PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE ON DIEGO GARCIA

1. IN THE LOK SABHA AUGUST 17, STATE MINISTER FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SAMARENDRA KUNDU WAS ASKED IF THE
GOVERNMENT HAD NOTED REPORTS THAT THE USA WAS INCREASING
ITS MILITARY STRENGTH AT DIEGO GARCIA, WHETHER THERE
WERE 10,000 COMBATANT TROOPS "WITH LATEST WEAPONS"
GARRISONED THERE, AND WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN
ANY ACTION IN THE MATTER. IN HIS PREPARED ANSWER KUNDU
SAID THAT THE GOI DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO CON-
FIRM THE REPORT AND REITERATED THE INDIAN POLICY ON
ELIMINATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASED IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN. IN ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS, KUNDU
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 12615 181514Z

SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION WAS THAT THERE
IS ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF TROOPS ON DIEGO GARCIA, NOT
THE 10,000 REPORTED IN A NEWS STORY.

2. ASKED IF THE PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS VISIT TO THE
USA HAD PROTESTED AGAINST THE MILITARY INSTALLATION AT
DIEGO GARCIA, KUNDU SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD

TAKEN UP THIS ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND "WE CON-
VEYED OUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE MILITARY
BASE IN DIEGO GARCIA AND ... THEY HAVE ASSURED US THAT
THEY ARE TRYING TO FREEZE THE SITUATION." CONGRESS LEADER
AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER Y.B. CHAVAN THEN ASKED IF IT
WAS TRUE OR A MISTAKE TO SAY THAT THE USA HAD GIVEN
ASSURANCES "TO FREEZE THE MILITARY BASES" BECAUSE IF
TRUE, " IT IS AN ACHIEVEMENT." KUNDU REPLIED: " I KNOW
WHAT IS IN THE MIND OF MR. CHAVAN. THE POSITION IS THIS.
EARLIER MR. CARTER HAD MENTIONED THAT THEY WANTED TO
DEMILITARIZE. BUT OF LATE, WE FIND THAT THEIR DECISION
IS THAT THEY WANT TO FREEZE THE POSITION." ASKED BY CHAVAN
AT WHAT LEVEL, KUNDU SAID," AT THE LEVEL OF CONSTRUCTION,
WHICH PERHAPS, THEY WERE ASKED (SIC) TO CONSTRUCT IN 1975.
GOHEEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, OCEANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE12615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780340-0066
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780849/aaaabojk.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f361e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1695226
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE ON DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: PARM, PINT, IN, XO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f361e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014